

Tom Horne
Superintendent

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ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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HORNE: SCHOOLS MUST FOLLOW RULES FOR TEACHING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNERS

Four hours a day required. Few schools currently comply.

PHOENIX (Thursday, June 21, 2007) – State Superintendent Tom Horne today sent notice to Arizona district and charter schools of developments with the English Language Learners Task Force. Under state law, schools are required to provide a minimum of four hours per day of English Language Development (ELD). The Task Force took action at its June 14 meeting to forward draft models to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee and other parties required by statute.

Horne's notice states: "Instead of just teaching in English, teachers will be asked to teach the 'English Language' in a manner more focused and structured than had been done."

Horne stated further: "In the proceedings, the Task Force discovered that virtually no schools were giving four hours of ELD. In fact, many schools were giving as little as a half hour a day of ELD. In order to receive funding from the Structured English Immersion fund, schools will have to be in compliance with the statute and with the models developed by the Task Force."

The draft model adopted by the Task Force divided up this four hours as follows: Oral English and conversation instruction, 45 minutes; grammar instruction, 60 minutes; reading instruction, 60 minutes; vocabulary instruction, 60 minutes; and, pre-writing instruction, 15 minutes.

Horne added: "It is hoped that this change will greatly increase the rate at which English Language Learners are re-classified 'English proficient' and enable them to achieve much greater academic success."

[A copy of the notice to the schools is attached.](#)

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